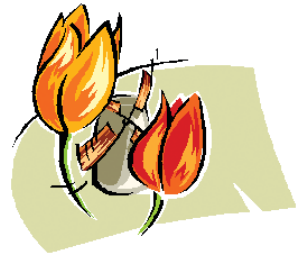




The Newsletter of Waukesha County's Department of Parks and Land Use

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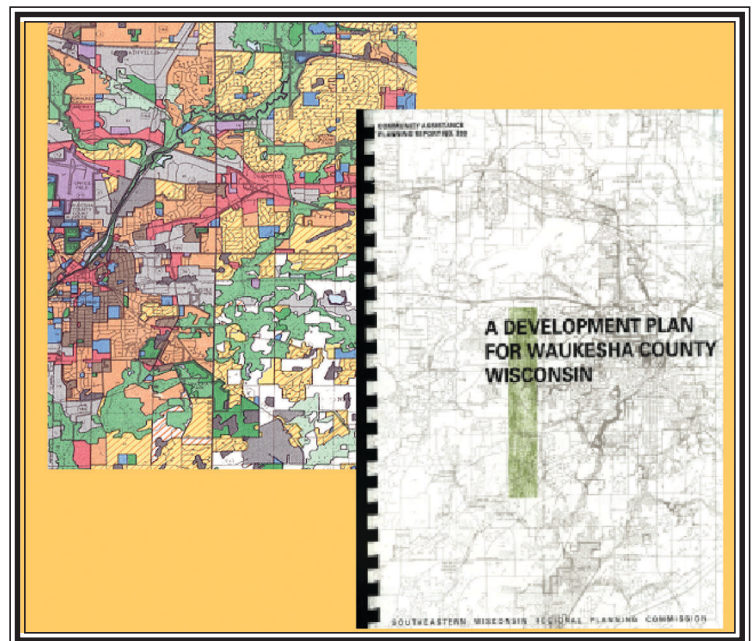
April 2003

Cooperative Land Use Planning In Waukesha County

by Dale R. Shaver, Director
Department of Parks & Land Use

A new comprehensive development planning initiative was enacted by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1999. The new requirements, frequently referred to as "Smart Growth", provide a framework for the development, adoption, and implementation of public comprehensive development plans in Wisconsin. The "Smart Growth" law requires that comprehensive plans be completed and adopted by local governing bodies, prior to January 1, 2010.

The Waukesha County Development Plan was adopted by the County Board in 1997. The County Development Plan was a culmination of a nearly 4 year planning process involving extensive inventories and analyses of factors and conditions affecting the physical development of the County. These included inventories and analyses of the demography, economy, housing, natural resources, park and open spaces, land uses, transportation and public utilities, and existing community plans and regulations. Before and since 1997, many of the communities in Waukesha County have undertaken the preparation or updating of development plans, using similar approaches to that used in the preparation of the Waukesha County Development Plan. The Waukesha County Development Plan and the individual community development plans used historic demographic, economic and growth information, including data from the 1990 Census.



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The "Smart Growth" law, the availability of year 2000 Census data, new municipal boundary agreements, the preparation of a Regional Year 2030/40 Development Plan, and the on-going need to update development plans provide a unique opportunity for the preparation of a coordinated comprehensive development plan for Waukesha County.

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) and Waukesha County have pursued signing Cooperative Agreements with each of the 37 municipalities in the County. The Cooperative Agreements are a formal expression of willingness to participate in a coordinated, comprehensive planning effort, one that includes identified roles and responsibilities in the plan-

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